

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 10 are pending in this application.

Claim 1, 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawano et al. (U.S. Patent 6,697,836).

In response to Applicant's previous argument, the Examiner contends the amended claims recite a conditional step which cannot be considered because the condition may not occur and therefore has no functionality. (Office Action page 2) In response, Applicant's have amended the claims to positively recite the limitation. Specifically, the present claims now recite "wherein, in response to said user requesting message information from the network server and switching from a first terminal device compatible with the first data format to a second terminal device compatible with the second data format before the requested message information is transmitted, the message information is converted from the first data format to the second data format and transmitted to the second terminal device." (Claim 1 and 10) Accordingly, this limitation and Applicant's previous argument should now be considered.

As previously argued, this feature of the invention provides that when a user requests information from the network while using, for example, a television terminal and then switches to using a telephone before receiving the response, the present invention will realize the user has switched to a new terminal device and send the response to the telephone in an

appropriate format. Since the original request was made using a television, the response may be in a video format which is incompatible with the telephone. In this case, the present invention will convert the video format response to a format, such as audio only, which is compatible with the telephone. While Kawano does keep track of which terminal the user is logged onto, Kawano also assumes any information response is to be sent to the same terminal from which the request is made. Kawano does not discuss the situation where a user switches terminals after a request is made but before the response can be sent.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Kawano fails to meet all of the recited limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

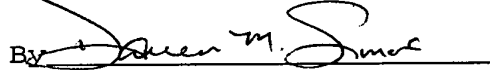
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Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-704

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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